

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 5, 11-13, 19, 21, 22, 24-27 and 33-43 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 13, and 27 being the independent claims. 1, 13, and 27 are sought to be clarified. Support for claim amendments can be found, e.g., at Figure 4 and related text in the originally filed application. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to the amended claims, in the future. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5, 13, 19, 27, and 33-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Hasha et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,734,879), hereinafter Hasha, in view of Sharood et al. (Pub. No. US 2002/0022991 A1), hereinafter Sharood, and further in view of Novak et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,073,130 B2), hereinafter Novak. Also, claims 1, 5, 11-13, 19, 21, 22, 24-27, and 33-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Dresti et al. (Pub. No. US 2003/0103088 A1), hereinafter Dresti, in view of Humpleman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,479 B1), herein after Humpleman, and further in view of Novak. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and the Response to Arguments section on pages 16-17 of the Office Action.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, claims 1, 13, and 27 are sought to be amended to clarify their distinguishing features. For example, claim 1 recites, at least “while maintaining the user interface at a constant size regardless of whether the third set of control objects are displayed or hidden from display,” and claims 13 and 27 recite at least “while maintaining the user interface at a constant size regardless of

whether the one or more affiliate system components are displayed or hidden from display.”

The Examiner states on pages 5-6, regarding Hasha and Sharood¹, and on page 11, regarding Dresti and Humpleman, that none of these references teaches or suggests “wherein the third set of control objects are configured to be pre-configured by a user to be hidden fro display on the user interface.” Rather, the Examiner relies on Novak to allegedly teach or suggest this feature. Applicants disagree.

Even if the applied references can be combined as suggested by the Examiner, which Applicants do not concede, Novak does not teach or suggest at least the above-noted distinguishing feature. Rather, Novak requires a user interface to change size and shape to hide portions which Novak does not want displayed. For example, as shown in Figure 14:

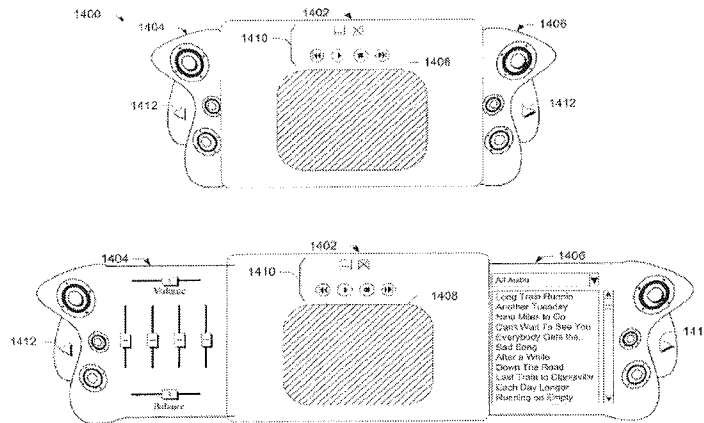


Fig. 14

when items are not displayed, they are “slid” in (top view of Figure 14), and when items are displayed they are “slid” out (bottom view of Figure 14), thus making two different sized interfaces depending on what is being displayed and what is being hidden. *See, e.g.*, Novak at columns 17-18 regarding “subviews.”

In contrast to what is taught in Novak, i.e., changing of a size of the user interface, claim 1 recites at least “while maintaining the user interface at a constant size regardless of whether the third set of control objects are displayed or hidden from

¹ Except for Section 3 on page 2, throughout the Office Action the Examiner uses “Sharwood,” however the correct name is Sharood. Applicants use Sharood.

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display,” and claims 13 and 27 recite at least “while maintaining the user interface at a constant size regardless of whether the one or more affiliate system components are displayed or hidden from display.”

Therefore, as Novak does not cure the inefficiencies of the other applied references, the applied references, in either allegedly obvious combination, cannot be used to establish a prima facie case of obviousness for claims 1, 13, and 27.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections, and pass the claims to allowance. Also, at least based on their respective dependencies to claims 1, 13, and 27, claims 5, 11-12, 19, 21, 22, 24-26 and 33-43 should also be found allowable over the applied references, as well as for the additional distinguishing features.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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